

# Travels in Time Archaeology



<u>Visiting Sites</u>- Before you visit an archaeological site, or location where archaeological sites are interpreted, please keep in mind the following information.

Archaeological Sites on Private Property- Many sites are on private property. In Indiana, sites dating before 1816 are protected under state law. Artifacts belong to the landowner, unless the landowner decides to assign ownership over to another person. Therefore, never trespass onto someone else's property to look at a site or collect artifacts without the landowner's permission. Many landowners are aware that they have archaeological sites on their property and wish to protect them from damage or vandalism.

**Archaeological Sites on State Property-** Archaeological sites on State property are protected by various laws. Therefore, activities such as unauthorized digging, or other damage, at sites are prohibited. Artifacts from sites on state property are owned by the State of Indiana. When you visit a state park, for example, if you would find an artifact, do not pick it up, and do not take it with you. Report the location to a park authority, and they will get in touch with the State Archaeologist's office.

**Archaeological Sites on Federal Property-** Sites on federal property are also protected. When visiting a federally managed or owned property, make sure that you become familiar with the property's rules or guidelines regarding searching for artifacts, visiting sites, etc.

## **Angel Mounds State Historic Site, Evansville (Vanderburgh County)**

Five to seven hundred years ago, the area we now call Angel Mounds State Historic Site was a thriving Mississippian Indian town. Built between A.D. 1100 and 1300, the town was occupied by one thousand to three thousand inhabitants until its abandonment around 1450. Throughout that



time, it was the largest settlement in Indiana. It served as the center of trade, government and religion for smaller satellite communities within a 70-mile radius.

Mississippian culture originated in the southeastern United States between A.D. 700 and 800, and in some places survived as late as 1700. The culture was very innovative. It was the first to extensively exploit agriculture and build permanent communities with thousands of residents. This economic and social system was made possible by the widespread cultivation of corn, a crop nutritious enough to be a dietary staple and capable of being harvested and stored in large quantities. The large and important town at Angel Mounds lends its name to the Angel phase, the period of Mississippian culture found near the confluence of the Wabash and Ohio Rivers from the late 11th through the early 15th century.

After more than 200 years of constant occupation, the town at Angel Mounds was abandoned, and by 1450, the site was empty. There is no evidence to show why the inhabitants left. Over a long period of occupation, the local supply of wood for building and fire would have been severely depleted. Intense agriculture may have overworked the soil. Game may have been scarce from over-hunting. Although there is no indication of attack from outside, there may have been political upheavals from within. Some combination of these factors, or perhaps all, may have played a role in the town's desertion.

The Mississippian people did not disappear entirely from Indiana; however, their lifestyle changed. The center of population also shifted 30 miles to the west of Angel Mounds where dispersed farmsteads and villages continued to exist along the Ohio River through the early 1600s. These later Mississippians were also gone before the arrival of Europeans in Indiana.

The 600+ acres that comprise Angel Mounds State Historic Site were purchased in 1938 by the Indiana Historical Society with financial assistance from Eli Lilly. In 1947, the Indiana Historical Society transferred ownership to the State of Indiana. It is now managed and interpreted by the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites [part of the Department of Natural Resources]. This site is so important, it is a National Historic Landmark.

Angel Mounds State Historic Site 8215 Pollack Ave. Evansville, IN 47715 Phone: 812.853.3956

Fax: 812.858.7686

E-mail: <a href="mailto:curator@angelmounds.org">curator@angelmounds.org</a>
Contact: Mike Linderman, Site Manager

March 29 - Nov. 23. 2005
Tuesday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday, 1– 5 p.m.
Open Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day.
Closed Mondays, Easter, Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, Primary Election Day, Election Day and Columbus Day.

Group tours and educational outreach programs can be scheduled during the regular season or off-season. Educational materials are available for check out during this time by calling in advance.

### **Mounds State Park Anderson (Madison County)**

Established in 1930, Mounds State Park contains and preserves some of the finest examples of earthwork and mound building in the state. This is a unique Adena-Hopewell site with the largest mound, the "Great Mound," dating to circa 160 B.C. This complex and well-organized society had a trade system that reached as far as the Gulf of Mexico. The earthwork complex at the park has been investigated off and on archaeologically since the late 1960s, and many exciting and unique discoveries have been made as



a result. For example, prehistoric pottery of unique type has been discovered there, as well as fascinating information regarding use of the earthworks in tracking the seasons and more. The archaeological resources at this park are so important that the site has been placed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The park has a rich historic background too, having been, among other things, an amusement park area in earlier times. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, a family of German immigrants, the Bronnenburgs, arrived and made the property their home. One of the sons built a two-story brick farmhouse that stands to this day. Constructed in the 1840s, virtually every bit of the house came from the surrounding woodlands. Today the park is managed and interpreted for all by the Department of Natural Resources.

Mounds State Park 4306 Mounds Road Anderson, IN 46017 765-642-6627

Park has many amenities such as: Visitor Center, camping, hiking trails, shelter houses, swimming area, and more.

Hours: Park is closed from 11:00 pm until 7:00am.

### Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology Indiana University, Bloomington (Monroe County)



The exhibit gallery of the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology presents the prehistoric Native American cultures that flourished in the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley regions from the end of the last Ice Age (ca. 12,000 BC) until the beginning of the Historic Period (ca. 1600-1860AD). The incredible beauty and diversity of the art that was created in the Midwestern United States before European contact is astounding. Visitors are invited to learn more about the

people who created the artifacts on display in our exhibit area.

Showcased in the original hardwood case that was custom built for Mr. Eli Lilly's private archaeological collection, is a spectacular collection of stone artifacts selected for exhibition from the collections of Mr. Lilly and Dr. and Mrs. C. Robert Plank. Opened in Spring, 2004, the newest exhibit, "Pleistocene Environment and Paleoindian Culture," offers visitors a glimpse of Indiana 12,000 years ago.

**Hours:** Tuesday through Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm, \*Closed Mondays\* Glenn Black Laboratory's main exhibit hall is accessible through the Mather's Museum of World Cultures lobby on Saturday afternoons during the school year. Please call in advance for holiday and IU break schedules.

**Visitor parking:** Metered parking is available in the lot next to the McCala School building located on the corner of 9th Street and Indiana Avenue. Handicap access is located at the main entrance, on the corner of 9th and Fess Streets. This ramp provides access to both the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology and the Mather's Museum of World Cultures.

Guided tours of the Glenn A. Black Laboratory are available during regular exhibit hall hours, by prior appointment only. Tours are regularly given for elementary through high school groups, college students, and civic organizations.

To schedule a tour for your group, please contact:
Noel D. Justice
Assistant Director and Curator of Collections
Glenn A. Black Laboratory
423 N. Fess
Bloomington, IN 47408
(812)855-0022
njustice@indiana.edu

# Indiana State Museum Indianapolis (Marion County)

As a division of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites help fulfill its mission of protecting, enhancing, preserving and wisely using our natural, cultural and recreational resources to benefit citizens. The museum has exhibits regarding Indiana's history and prehistory.



The Prehistoric Archaeology collection at the Indiana State

Museum consists of approximately 30,000 individual specimens from the state of Indiana and surrounding areas. This collection contains specimens that were acquired by the state from the 1870s to today. Most of the archaeological materials were surface collected by interested individuals or archaeologists. The museum has some excavated materials and an active fieldwork program to investigate prehistoric habitation sites.

Historic collections curated by the Indiana State Museum represent a wide range of sites. Important historic collections include materials excavated at the J.F.D. Lanier State Historic Site, a Greek revival mansion built c. 1844; artifacts from Lick Creek, an early through late 19th century rural African American community in Orange County; and the Gronauer Lock in east central Indiana.

The earliest cataloged material consists of several artifacts published by E.T. Cox in the 1874 Geological Survey of Indiana. The strengths of the early collections are materials collected by Jack Householder from Hamilton and surrounding counties and materials excavated from Anderson Mounds. There is also a large number of chipped and ground stone tools that form part of the "old collection." This includes some fine examples of various types of tools; however, these specimens tend to have more limited provenance, or history of ownership, because of the time they were collected. The Indiana State Museum curates artifacts for a number of cultural resource management firms as well. Individuals who are interested in preserving our past also donate materials to the Indiana State Museum so these artifacts can be preserved for future generations to see and study. The Museum encourages people to donate artifacts that they know some locality information about, for example, materials that were collected from the family farm.

The Indiana State Museum 650 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 Phone: 317.232.1637 TDD: 317.234.2447

The Indiana State Museum is a smoke–free environment. Animals are not allowed in the Indiana State Museum with the exception of service animals.

Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Open Easter, regular Sunday hours; IMAX schedule will be different: please call 317.232.1637 for times.)

### River Road Park (Hamilton Co. Parks and Recreation Department), Carmel (Hamilton County)

The playground at River Road Park is a must see! This playground set is one of a kind, archeology is it's main inspiration. This set is equipped with slides, a sandbox with artifacts (handicap accessible), and rock climbing structures.



A must see attraction is the newly developed interpretive center. This building allows kids to use their five senses to get a better idea of how Native Americans lived years ago. It is all within a simple push of a button and you can be taken back in time!

River Road Park 12575 River Road Carmel, IN 46033 Phone: 317-896-5874

## Strawtown Koteewi Park (Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department), Hamilton County

Local archeologists have been hard at work discovering the history of this property. Many students from Ball State University, IUPFW, Indiana University, and Indiana State University, have contributed their time to the collecting, and curating the artifacts found.

Archeologists have discovered that the major occupation of this property was 800 years ago, from 1200-1400A.D. Some artifacts they have found include; arrowheads, pieces of pottery, and remains of what they ate, such as bear and elk. Evidence of postholes, storage pits, and fire pits gives the archeologist an idea of the location of their villages and huts were.

The Taylor Center of Natural History has opened it's doors! The Grand Opening was September 18th, 2004. All ages can learn more about this site by visiting the new Taylor

Center of Natural History. This interpretive center includes an office space, an archeology lab, classrooms, and a curation area. The new center will be a research center for archaeologists and projects that are being conducted on site. Currently, it will be open for scheduled tours and field trips. To schedule a tour or field trip, call The Cool Creek Nature Center at 848-0476.

Strawtown Koteewi "Prairie" Park 12308 E. Strawtown Ave. White River Township phone: 317-984-5556 fax: 317-984-5561

All parks operated by Hamilton County Parks and Recreation are open 365 days per year from dawn to dusk. Some sections of the park may be closed due to special events or shelter reservations. Please refer to <a href="https://example.com/The Chatterbox">The Chatterbox</a> or call the Administration Office at 896-5874 for additional date and time information.

#### **Tippecanoe Battlefield and Fort Ouiatenon**

#### **Battle Ground (Tippecanoe County)**

It seems hard to believe that a wooded area seven miles north of Lafayette, Indiana, played such a major role in American history. Yet it was on this spot the Native Americans lost their grip on the fertile Midwestern lands they had roamed for thousands of years. It was also on this spot some years later that a gathering took place that helped launch the modern political campaign. That wooded area is the Tippecanoe Battlefield, a National Historic Landmark that attracts tens of thousands of visitors to northern Tippecanoe County annually.



Explore the grounds where the conflict occurred. Visit vivid museum displays and discover the history of a time when two Shawnee brothers, Tecumseh and The Prophet, had a dream of uniting many tribes into an organized defense against the white settlers. Walk the battle ground where Native Americans and settlers clashed and a conflict of cultures was resolved. The museum contains colorful displays and information on the history and events of the Battle of Tippecanoe. Plus there are:

- Picnic Grounds
- Hiking Trails
- Nature Center
- Artifacts of European and Native American cultures
- Gift Shop

The Tippecanoe Battlefield and museum are located seven miles north of Lafayette, just

off the St. Rd. 43 exit of I-65 at 200 Battle Ground Ave. in Battle Ground, IN.

**The Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum hours are:** Daily: 12 pm - 5 pm Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. The Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum is closed during the month of January for upkeep and maintenance. Please call the center at (765) 567-2147 for more information about availability.

**Admission:** \$3.00 adults \$2.00 seniors, AAA & CAA, military, tour groups, students \$1.00 children (4-12)

For additional information or to arrange for tours, please call (765) 476-8411.

#### Fort Ouiatenon -

In 1928, a local physician, Dr. Richard B. Wetherill acquired the land around what was believed to be the site of an early French trading post known as the Fort Ouiatenon Blockhouse (1717-1791). In 1930, he built a 452 sq. ft. replica of the fort on this land. The grounds lie approximately 3 miles southwest of West Lafayette on South River Road.

In 1968 archaeological excavations and document research began under the auspices of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association to recapture and preserve the almost-forgotten French Heritage of Ouiatenon. The archaeological excavation uncovered the actual site of the original stockade. Excavations, under the supervision of archaeologists from Michigan State University, ended in 1979. The actual site of Fort Ouiatenon was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1970.



Both the document research, which has extended as far as Canada and France, and the archaeological research are adding to our knowledge of the Ouiatenon of more than two centuries past.

The Fort Ouiatenon blockhouse is open many weekends during the summer months. Please see our <u>Calendar of Events</u> for details on activities taking place at the Fort Ouiatenon site. <u>School programs</u> at the park are also available. Contact the Tippecanoe County Historical Association at (765) 476-8411 for more information.

### **Sources of information and/or images:**

http://www.in.gov/ism/HistoricSites/AngelMounds/Historic.asp

Mike Linderman, Angel Mounds State Historic Site

Richard Fields, Outdoor Indiana Magazine

Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, Indiana University

http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/parks/mounds.html

http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/maps/mounds info side.pdf

http://www.gbl.indiana.edu/exhibit.html

http://www.in.gov/ism/

http://www.co.hamilton.in.us/parks\_details.asp?id=2930

http://www.co.hamilton.in.us/parks\_details.asp?id=2932

http://www.tcha.mus.in.us/battlefield.htm

http://www.tcha.mus.in.us/ouiatenon.htm

Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology